



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Janelle L. Chan, Undersecretary

**Memorandum**

To: DMHRSP Administering Agencies & Service Providers  
From: Brendan Goodwin, Director, Bureau of Rental Assistance  
Subject: **DMHRSP CORI/SORI**  
Date: January 8, 2019  
cc: Stephanie Kan, AHVP & DMHRSP Coordinator, Bureau of Rental Assistance  
DMH Central Office & Area Offices

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Happy New Year! As you know, Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program (DMHRSP) has a closed referral process without a prescribed referral form. DHCD permits Administering Agencies to choose to utilize DMH's or their own form for initial referrals and subsequent recertifications/reexaminations. AAs are welcome to utilize the same form for both Sponsor based and Tenant based clients, but must ensure that questions pertinent only to Tenant based clients are clearly marked. This includes CORI/SORI and specified prior conduct, which are only applicable for Tenant based clients.

The following is only applicable to Tenant based clients in the DMHRSP. Please be advised that the criminal reform bill, Chapter 69 Acts of 2018, effective 10/13/2018, allows an applicant with a sealed record to respond "no record" when applying for employment, housing, or professional license.

Chapter 276 Section 100A:

An application used to screen applicants for employment, housing or an occupational or professional license which seeks information concerning prior arrests or convictions of the applicant shall **include the following statement**: "An applicant for employment or for housing or an occupational or professional license with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' with respect to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests, criminal court appearances or convictions. An applicant for employment or for housing or an occupational or professional license with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests or criminal court appearances. In addition, any applicant for employment may answer 'no record' with respect to any inquiry relative to prior arrests, court appearances and adjudications in all cases of delinquency or as a child in need of services which did not result in a complaint transferred to the superior court for criminal prosecution." The attorney general may enforce the provisions of this paragraph by a suit in equity commenced in the superior court.

Chapter 276, Section 100C:

An application for employment used by an employer used to screen applicants for employment, housing or an occupational or professional license which seeks information concerning prior arrests or convictions of the applicant shall include in addition to the statement required under section one hundred A **the following statement**: "An applicant for employment, housing or an occupational or professional license with a sealed record on file with the commissioner of probation may answer 'no record' with respect to an inquiry herein relative to prior arrests or

criminal court appearances." The attorney general may enforce the provisions of this section by a suit in equity commenced in the superior court.

This applies to any questions regarding CORI/SORI on employment, housing, or professional license forms throughout Massachusetts, including DMHRSP.

As always, please contact Stephanie Kan, AHVP & DMHRSP Coordinator, at 617-573-1222 or [Stephanie.Kan@mass.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Kan@mass.gov), with any questions or concerns.